

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 26, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Mr. Bushemi gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Miano was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Spann apologized for his actions at the last Town Council meeting. He strongly believes there is merit in keeping a portion of the Old Mill building for historical sake. Mr. Spann intends to share additional ideas with the Council in an effort to come to a mutual understanding.

Mr. Spires read a letter of appreciation from William Modrak, owner of McDonald's located 2900 W 81st Ave. Mr. Modrak thanked the Mr. Spires, Town Officials & Town Council for their fairness & willingness to work with him during a successful reconstruction project that took place at the above referenced McDonald's location.

Mr. Spires read a letter from Joe Shuddick, Ross Township Trustee regarding the Food Pantry program.

President Hardaway commented to acknowledge National Nurse's week May 6th through 12th.

President Hardaway read a Proclamation to designate "Arbor Day" Friday, April 29, 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated April 26, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2016. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit mentioned a discussion took place at a prior budget & finance meeting regarding the possibility of employee raises for calendar year 2017.

Mr. Pettit discussed the details related to a proposal of the Road Condition Survey and Asset Management Plan submitted by Robinson Engineering. Mr. Pettit encouraged the Council to hire Robinson Engineering with terms and conditions as laid out in the proposal. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann had no report. A discussion took place regarding the poor condition of the railroad tracks on 62nd. Mr. Spann provided the latest update related to this issue.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. Chief Petruch spoke about a missing person case that was discovered to be a homicide due to the efforts of the Merrillville Police officers. Chief Petruch commended Detective Dillahunty, Commander Rice, Commander Wiley and Ray Smith on a job well done.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich spoke about the revised Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the engineering services for mutual benefit connected with federal aid bicycle trail. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the agreement and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Mr. Pettit announced a public resident meeting to discuss the Forest Hills bike trail. The meeting will take place on May 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Orlich provided an update related to the swings at Preserves Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron had no report. Mr. Lake said that they anticipate the start of the 53rd Court project to occur on May 9, 2016 and take 2-3 days to finish up. Mr. Lake announced that the 2017 INAFSM Statewide Stormwater Conference will be held in NW Indiana for the first time ever. The conference will take place at the Radisson Hotel.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit made reference to an upcoming resolution for real and personal property tax abatement that will be discussed under General Orders.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway spoke about the donation to the Town of a blighted property located at 122 W 55th Ave, Merrillville, Indiana.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-12: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating a budget line item within the Parks General budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-13: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, amending the Rental Housing Fund to permit its use for town disaster response, creating a Town Disaster Response Fund, establishing a Town Disaster Response Program, transferring funds from the Rental Housing Fund to the Town Disaster Response Fund and appropriating funds from the Town Disaster Response Fund. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-10: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating a Broadway TIF Debt Service Fund. (retroactive to 4-7-16) Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-11: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to amend the vacant and abandoned building registration and maintenance ordinance. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Mr. Bushemi reviewed the details of the amendment within the ordinance. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 16-12: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, approving real and personal property tax abatement on property located within an economic revitalization area. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Mr. Pettit spoke about the job creation that will come from Lindco Equipment Sales as a result of this tax abatement. He thanked Lindco Equipment Sales. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to amend the Agenda to add Resolution 16-13. Mrs. Barron seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 16-13: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council approving accepting the donation of certain real property owned by REO Logic-Indiana Holdings LLC commonly known as 122 W 55th Ave, Merrillville, Indiana for the purpose of demolition. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A brief discussion took place regarding the staging area for Indiana American Water located on the south side of 73rd Ave.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Autism Awareness Fair, April 30, 2016 from 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Pruzin Center

Drug Disposal Day, April 30, 2016 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, May 4, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop meeting, May 4, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Police Commission meeting, May 6, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Rain Barrel pick up, May 10, 2016 at Stormwater Management located at 7404 Broadway at 3:00 p.m.

RDC meeting, May 10, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Town Council meeting, May 10, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer